

DD/A 79-0818/9

MEMORANDUM FOR:

D/NFAC

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Legislative Counsel

I have been tasked, in conjunction with an effort organized by Mike Oksenberg of the NSC to draft the attached re federal funding of international studies and foreign language training. If you have any changes to suggest, please let me know by c/o b Thursday December 6.

Helene L. Boatner
D/OPA

Attachment:

Draft letter to
Hon. James T. McIntyre, Jr.

Date

5 Dec 1979

FORM 5-75 101 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

(seal)
Washington, D.C. 20505

D R A F T

The Honorable James T. McIntyre, Jr.
Director of the Office of Management & Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Jim:

I understand that the Office of Management and Budget is currently considering the appropriate level of funding for Title VI of the National Defense Education Act, which provides funds for advanced international studies including study of foreign languages. I want you to know that I consider that a major increase in funding for this program is urgently needed on national security grounds. As the report of the President's Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies (the Perkins report) points out, the country's ability to provide higher education in foreign language and area study is deteriorating badly at the same time that our need for understanding what goes on in the rest of the world is increasing.

This is of particular concern to the Intelligence Community. As you are aware, the substantive issues that face us are becoming ever more complex. In addition to continuing our efforts to collect and analyze information on traditional national security subjects, we are faced with many issues that have emerged more recently. It is vital that we understand what is going on in the Muslim world. We must know more than we do about Africa itself and about the role of the Soviets and the Cubans on that continent, as well as around the globe. The

changing economic position of the United States in the world creates many new demands, of both an economic and a political nature, for intelligence. Recent events in Central America and the Caribbean make it abundantly obvious that we as a nation need a deeper understanding of Latin America. The opening up of China to the world offers the first opportunity in some three decades for American scholars to gain a new understanding of that indisputably important country. As a nation we neglect these topics at our peril.

In our attempts to improve our collection and our analytical capabilities, one of the major roadblocks we face is the extreme shortage of highly qualified talent that we can draw upon. This applies not only to our need to hire full time personnel for our own activities, but the urgent requirement for increased use of non-governmental expertise, through external contracts and through various forms of consultations. In this agency, the need for personnel with highly-developed language capabilities is particularly acute. But if US educational institutions are graduating only a small number of qualified personnel, while the competition for them from other government departments and from private industry is growing, we simply cannot satisfy our needs. Obviously, it is equally vital that we employ people who are truly expert in the countries we seek to understand and have had the opportunity of living and studying abroad.

Unfortunately, both federal and foundation support of international studies have declined sharply in real terms. I fully understand that there are many competing demands for federal funds,

that the choices posed in a time of budget austerity are extremely painful. Nonetheless, I feel most strongly that the relatively small amount of money that would be required to provide a substantial increase in Title VI funding--well beyond the rate of inflation--is an investment we cannot afford to neglect. The program as it is now funded is clearly inadequate.

Yours,

STANSFIELD TURNER